

REMARKS

The applicants have carefully considered the Office action dated August 21, 2007, and the references it cites. By way of this Response, claims 2-4, 12-13, 16, 18-19, 21-23 and 35 have been amended, and claims 1, 5, 17, 24-26, 36 and 46 have been cancelled without prejudice to their further prosecution. In view of the following, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, the applicants note that claims 6-11, 30-34, 39-42 and 48 stand allowed and are not further discussed in this paper.

By way of this response, all of the rejected claims have either been amended to depend (directly or via an intervening dependent claim) on allowed claim 6, or have been cancelled without prejudice to their further prosecution. Accordingly, only the independent claims indicated as allowable in the final Office action and their dependent claims remain pending in this application. As a result, this application has been placed in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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